

(d) if so, whether Government have taken up this matter with Uttar Pradesh Government; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Netherlands Government has not taken any decision to close down the Indo-Dutch project at Kanpur under Ganga Action Plan Phase-II in Uttar Pradesh. They have only indicated their intention not to grant any extension to the project beyond the original project completion date of October, 2001.

(b) to (c) Amongst other things, a major parameter relating to the scope of this project was to adopt Upflow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket technology for treatment of sewage in the town. As this technology does not adequately address to the reduction of disease causing bacteria in treated sewage and also with a view to minimizing the burden of annual operation and maintenance cost on the State Government and the local bodies, Government recommended to Netherlands Government to allow adoption of cost effective pond based sewage treatment system. However, due to difficulties in acquisition of large areas of land required for pond system as intimated by the State Government and the preference of Netherlands Government not to change the treatment technology at this stage, it has been jointly agreed by both the Government of India and the State Government to adopt the earlier envisaged treatment technology of Upflow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket for the project at Kanpur.

Protection of Cranes around Surat

1436. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether death has come quietly to the Saras Crane inhabiting in the water bodies around Surat;

(b) if so, the warnings given by the WWF officials in this regard; and

(c) the action proposed to preserve the vanishing species of crane;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Shri Rohit Bhujbal who is a member of Valsad division of WWF India has made certain comments about the Sarus Cranes in his individual capacity but the Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat State has reported that no death of Sarus Cranes has been noticed/reported in the water bodies around Surat in the recent past;

(b) State Government is taking following actions to preserve the vanishing species of the cranes:

- (i) Improvement of water bodies by de-silting and making pollution free.
- (ii) Increasing the prey base for birds in the water bodies.
- (iii) Avoiding disturbance around water bodies.
- (iv) Developing educational and awareness programmes for people residing around these water bodies.
- (v) Introducing rewards for the people providing information regarding damage to birds and their natural habitat.

Preservation of Kaziranga National Park

1437. SHRIMATI. BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a news item captioned "Concern over exodus for fauna from Kaziranga National Park", published in the 'Assam Tribune dated 12th February, 1999;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to protect and preserve Kaziranga as the natural habitat of the Rhino; and

(c) if not, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no exodus of fauna from Kaziranga National Park due to shortage of green grass. Occasional straying out of rhinos take place to adjacent village and raid the crop etc. and return back